## San Juan Church of Christ

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## What Does God's Word Say About... Miracles - Part 3

The test today to determine whether a person's work is ordained of God, is the New Testament, the written word. If a man preaches and practices what the New Testament reveals, he is right before God; if he fails to follow this perfect standard, he is wrong before God. The miracles of Jesus were performed to prove His divinity, and the apostles' miracles confirmed their testimony concerning the Lord. The complete will of Christ is revealed in the New Testament (John 12:48; Galatians 1:6-10; Jude 3).

Since God confirmed His word through miracles, signs, and wonders, then He does not need to reconfirm it to this generation. Paul wrote, when the "perfect" comes, the "in part" will be done away (1 Cor. 13:8-12). In this passage, "the perfect" is contrasted to the "in part." The "in part" is named as tongues, knowledge and prophesy - all having to do with revelation. The "perfect" or the mature, then must be the completed revelation of God (James 1:25). When God completed His revelation to man, the "in part" would "fail," "cease," and "vanish away." Paul used three illustrations of growing to maturity - the child becoming a man, from a mirror to "face to face," and partly known to fully known. Now here is the point: Since we have the complete revelation of God, then we no longer need the "in part," that is, the miracles used to confirm the word.

God ushered in the gospel age with miraculous power, which inspired and confirmed the preaching of the will of Christ; but with the completion of the written word miracles ended, and since then God has operated through natural law. This in the physical realm through the laws of nature and in the spiritual realm through the laws revealed in the New Testament. No man today can work miracles by the power of God. All supposed miracles performed by modern miracle workers must be classified as "lying wonders" (2 Thess. 2:9), "false miracles." Remember, Jesus healed everyone who came to Him without fail (Matt. 4:23-24, 8:16, 9:35, 12:15, 14:34-36, 15:29-31). Jesus healed everyone completely; no one came back in a few days still suffering. The enemies of Jesus admitted that He could work miracles, (John 11:46-48) but today faith healers are regarded as frauds. Jesus and His apostles did not use their miraculous powers to become wealthy as Simon the sorcerer wanted to do (Acts 8:18-20), and as modern-day false healers do (1 Tim 6:5). Jesus did not require a person to be present at a healing service to be healed (Matt. 8:5-13). Jesus did not require faith in everyone present before He healed a person. Jesus never said that He could not work miracles because unbelievers were present (Luke 7:11-17, 8:49-56). Jesus did not require great stirring of emotion, or a special atmosphere to heal anyone, but modern faith healers use the emotions of those present in their false healing.

The Bible's testimony is clear - miracles confirmed the word, were prophesied to cease, and ended with the death of the apostles and the men and women they laid their hands on. Let all those who reverence the inspired, confirmed, New Testament always strive to be loyal to it in word, thought, and deed; and its divine power is thoroughly sufficient to give them "all things that pertain to life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3).

Send questions, comments, or a request for a Bible study to: info@sanjuanchurchofchrist.org